



# PSC NEWS

## Missouri Public Service Commission

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FY-04-21

### PSC SETS INTERVENTION DEADLINE/HEARING SCHEDULE IN AQUILA NATURAL GAS RATE CASE

Jefferson City (August 25, 2003)---The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold hearings in **January** in a natural gas rate case filed by Aquila, Incorporated d/b/a Aquila Networks-L&P and Aquila Networks-MPS (Aquila). **Hearings will be held January 20, 2004 through January 23, 2004 and January 26, 2004 through January 30, 2004.** These hearings will be held in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, in Jefferson City. The Governor Office Building meets accessibility standards required by the Americans With Disabilities Act. If any person needs additional accommodations to participate in the hearings, please call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 prior to the hearings.

**The Commission will hold local public hearings in this case to receive customer comment on the Company's rate proposal. The Commission will set the times, dates and locations of these local public hearings in a future order.**

Aquila is seeking to increase annual natural gas revenues by approximately \$5.6 million in its Aquila Networks-MPS system and by approximately \$810,000 in its Aquila Networks-L&P system. Under the proposal, Aquila states a typical Aquila Networks-MPS residential customer using 802 Ccf (a Ccf equals 100 cubic feet) of natural gas a year would have an increase of \$9.03 a month or \$108.36 a year. Under the proposal, a typical Aquila Networks-L&P residential customer using 863 Ccf of natural gas a year would have an increase of \$8.33 a month or \$99.96 a year.

This rate case reflects what are called the non-gas costs of providing service to customers. Non-gas costs are generally operating and maintenance expenses and a return on investment in plant (such as natural gas mains and service lines that carry natural gas to the customer's home or business). The Missouri Public Service Commission does not regulate gas costs or rates that are charged to Aquila for natural gas by wholesale suppliers. The Commission does perform a regulatory review to ensure that regulated natural gas companies such as Aquila make prudent decisions in securing natural gas supplies for their customers.

Applications to intervene and participate in this natural gas rate case must be filed on or before **September 9, 2003**, with the Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. Copies of the application should be sent to: Dean L. Cooper, Brydon, Swearingen & England, P.C., 312 East Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 456, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102; and the Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 7800, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. The Office of the Public Counsel is a separate state agency which represents the general public in matters before the Public Service Commission.

Aquila Networks-L&P serves approximately 6,000 natural gas customers in the former St. Joseph Light & Power service area. Aquila Networks-MPS serves approximately 46,000 natural gas customers in the former service area of Missouri Public Service.

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